

# HEART OF A SHEPHERD

*Building for Today. Providing for Tomorrow.*

## CAMPAIGN IMPACT REPORT



*Celebrating God's Goodness*

AND THE GENEROSITY OF THE FAITHFUL IN  
SUPPORT OF OUR PRIESTS AND SEMINARIANS



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

*Enriching Lives In Northeast Ohio*

# \$51.4 MILLION PLEDGED TO THE CAMPAIGN

## DIOCESAN CAMPAIGN COMPONENTS: GOAL \$30 MILLION

### I. RENOVATE OUR SEMINARIES

#### \$20 MILLION

Borromeo Seminary and Saint Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology, with buildings over 70 years old, were long overdue for an interior renovation. East Wing renovations are now complete, with each room 40 percent larger than before. Each room has its own room temperature controls and was rewired to have at least five electrical outlets with internet and Wi-Fi capacity. The rooms have new sinks, light fixtures, modern furniture, and updated storage. The East Wing has 46 rooms to house Borromeo Seminary college residents and faculty. Renovation to the West Wing, which will house Saint Mary Seminary students, is underway and slated for completion later this fall.

There is also an upgraded elevator and new elevator connecting all floors, a shared lounge area and study space, laundry rooms, and an updated Reconciliation Chapel. Resurrection Chapel, a prayerful space where seminarians gather five times a day for prayer and discern their vocation, will also be renovated.

### II. CARE FOR RETIRED PRIESTS

#### \$7 MILLION

In our diocese, we are fortunate to have 214 active priests and 100 retired priests who have dedicated their lives to serving us. Many priests continue to serve our community of faith after retirement, and we are called to do what is necessary to provide them with adequate care. The Heart of a Shepherd campaign is raising \$7 million for the Retired Clergy Pension Fund to ensure proper care for our clergy while reducing annual premiums for parishes.



## Campaign Timeline

**March  
2019**

Campaign feasibility study begins

**Fall  
2019**

Pilot 1 cohort of 10 parishes begins the campaign

**March  
2020**

Pandemic pause

**Fall  
2020**

Pilot 2 cohort of 14 parishes begins the campaign

**December  
2020**

Seminary demolition begins

## PARISH CAMPAIGN COMPONENT

### III. SUPPORT FOR NEWLY-ORDAINED CLERGY

#### \$3 MILLION

When seminarians are ordained, many are burdened with financial hardship. A seminarian graduating today may have accumulated between \$8,000 and \$112,000 in education debt, an average of \$38,000. The Heart of a Shepherd campaign will allocate \$3 million in an endowment dedicated to loan repayment assistance for newly-ordained priests, helping to ensure that these priests can dedicate their lives to the Lord and serve our communities without the weight of financial hardship.

### IV. SUPPORTING PARISH NEEDS

The many vibrant parishes that comprise our Diocese of Cleveland serve as pillars of faith, hope, and charity in our communities. In direct response to the challenges set forth by the global pandemic, the Heart of a Shepherd campaign provided an opportunity for our parishes across the Diocese to raise funds for pressing local needs. Each parish set its own goals and determined its needs.

**“EVERY ONE OF US PRAYS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED THEIR GENEROUS GIFTS TO THE HEART OF A SHEPHERD CAMPAIGN TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND UPDATED LIVING SPACE FOR OUR SEMINARIANS TODAY AND PRIESTS FOR TOMORROW. THANK YOU!”**

– REV. MARK LATCOVICH,  
PRESIDENT-RECTOR,  
BORROMEO AND SAINT MARY SEMINARIES



#### Spring 2021

A cohort of 17 parishes begins the campaign

#### Spring 2021

Renovation begins on the Seminary East Wing

#### Fall 2021

Final cohort of parishes begins the campaign

#### Fall 2021

Seminary East Wing renovation complete / West Wing begins

#### Fall 2022

West Wing renovation slated for completion

#### December 2022

Blessing and Ribbon Cutting Planned at the Seminary



FROM LEFT: SEMINARIAN CHRIS COTONE; FATHER MATT BYRNE, PASTOR; FATHER DAVE LIBERATORE, RETIRED.

## LIVES OF FAITH AND SERVICE

It seemed an impossible task: to relaunch a fundraising campaign during a pandemic. But the people of our diocese embraced the Heart of a Shepherd campaign in loving support of our seminarians, newly-ordained and retired priests, and parish needs. At St. John Bosco in Parma Heights, the impact of donor support is apparent in their pastor, a former pastor, and a seminarian who is a son of the parish.

### A SEMINARIAN'S FORMATION

Chris Cotone remembers tagging along with his dad, St. John Bosco music director Norm Cotone, for evening choir rehearsals – and falling asleep in the pews. “It felt like another home. Everyone there helped raise me to be the person I am today, including my spiritual formation,” he says.

At Holy Name High School, Chris became a leader in Campus Ministry and discovered a love for the Eucharist in a weekly “Cenacle of Mary” faith group of about 40 students praying the Divine Mercy chaplet together. “I wasn’t thinking of the priesthood yet, but I was impressed with kids my age wanting to know the Lord more deeply,” says Chris.

In his first semester at John Carroll University (JCU), Chris met other young men attending JCU classes for Borromeo seminary. “The seminarians I encountered at JCU were totally contrary

to the stereotype,” Chris says. “They weren’t obsessed with church talk, but were normal guys who loved Jesus, so much so that they wanted to seriously discern where He was calling them. I thought that was heroic. Their witness drew me to consider for myself how the Lord might be calling me to lay down my life.”

Describing the seeds of his vocation, Chris points to his father’s example of faith, his mother’s prayers, and his family’s close friendship with their former pastor at St. John Bosco, Father Dave Liberatore. “We’d often see him outside of church, at our house, or on vacation together,” remembers Chris. “I was intrigued by him and the life of a priest. I was fascinated by his relationships with families in our parish, especially my family.”

Having completed his undergrad program at Borromeo, Chris is in his third year at Saint Mary Seminary. He’s impressed with renovations funded by the Heart of a Shepherd campaign. Chris is pleased they’ll have rooms like modern college dorms, with central air, reliable internet, and sound insulation – and grateful for loan repayment assistance for college debt. “To know that people support us is humbling – but not surprising,” says Chris. “Our diocese has always loved our priests and been supportive of men who will minister in the future.”

## A PASTOR'S GRATITUDE

Father Matt Byrne is the current pastor at St. John Bosco and is still grateful for his nine years of seminary formation. "We had rigorous academics, but the big push was to make sure we were fully human, with hearts ready to love and sacrifice," says Father Matt. He also remembers an outdated building so hot that he tossed and turned all night on his first visit during high school and vowed never to go back.

On the recommendation of vocation director Father Bob Stec, Father Matt did return. He fell in love with seminary life and had a pivotal experience in the first month of his freshman year. "I had a serious reaction to the flu vaccine, had to be hospitalized, and learn to walk all over again," he remembers. "The outpouring of love and support opened my eyes to the goodness of the people in the seminary and this diocese. Every vocation to the priesthood is ultimately a response to love."

Father Matt had just been named pastor when the Heart of a Shepherd campaign launched at St. John Bosco in March 2020 – and the COVID-19 pandemic hit. In fact, he had to cancel public worship just three days after his arrival. "With that timing, I honestly thought the campaign would fail," says Father Matt. He managed to delay launching the campaign until fall of 2021. "We were looking to raise a lot of money during an uncertain time, and people were still not sure of me, or so I thought," he says.

"We exceeded our goal, reaching 180 percent of our target," says Father Matt. "I attribute that response to the goodness of the people of God and their love for priests. They still want good, holy, and loving priests."

Part of the campaign funds were shared with parishes, and after an expensive roof replacement, Father Matt was grateful to replenish funds for future capital needs. "Hopefully, all this investment in our seminarians, our parishes, and our retired priests will have an impact, helping draw the hearts of more young men to the priesthood."

## A RETIRED PRIEST'S SECURITY

Father Dave Liberatore has lived through massive change – in the Church, society, and ministry. He was ordained in 1960 before Vatican II, and for the first five years of his priesthood, he celebrated the old Latin Mass. The Church was bursting with so many priests that the newly ordained were told they might never become pastors of their own parish.

Father Dave spent his first year at St. Clare Parish in Lyndhurst and then served on the faculty at Borromeo for 15 years. In 1976 he was called upon to start a new parish, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Columbia Station, an experience he recalls as one of the greatest delights of his priesthood. "I had no idea

what I was doing, and there were no 'how-to' books available," says Father Dave. "I was scared to death with no money and no clear idea where the finances would come from. But as I saw the Holy Spirit directing this ministry, it all came together. I learned in a very dramatic way that being a pastor was to be called to a life of sacrificial service."

Father Dave then served as pastor of St. John Bosco for 29 years and experienced the people's great love for their priests. "During that time, the diocese initiated a new mandatory retirement age of 75 and began the priest's pension fund. I retired at 75 from St. John Bosco, but wanted to 'keep my finger in the pie,' so I became an associate at St. Basil the Great Parish in Brecksville, thanks to the goodness of Father Walt Jenne," says Father Dave.

Father Dave lives in a house he bought in Parma Heights in 2006 and receives Social Security and his priest's pension but still needs income from his own personal investments to live on. "I never talked about my finances with parishioners and never wanted it to seem like I was asking for financial aid," he says. "But I think faithful in the diocese should know that we have financial needs."

Father Dave is grateful that the priest's retirement fund was part of the Heart of a Shepherd campaign and was so enthusiastically supported by the people of the diocese. ■



AS AN INFANT, CHRIS WAS BAPTIZED BY FATHER DAVE AT ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH.



CHRIS ZALAR (CENTER) WITH ST. MARY PASTOR, FATHER SCOTT GOODFELLOW (LEFT), AND FATHER STEPHEN SPISAK (RIGHT), PAROCHIAL VICAR.

## A GRATEFUL HEART GIVES BACK

As a 10-year-old girl in Fairport Harbor, Chris Zalar remembers spending time with her godfather, the inventive fire chief who converted a Ford van into one of the village's early ambulances. Those early memories inspired her interest in medicine, which led to a career as an emergency department and flight nurse – and evolved into an entrepreneurial consulting business focused on developing and managing ambulance services for hospital systems and trauma centers. As founding partner of Fitch & Associates, Chris has traveled the world helping healthcare organizations and governments provide effective, efficient emergency medical services – from hospitals in large cities to EMS services in rural Canada and air transport in Abu Dhabi.

Her Catholic faith is at the heart of Chris' life and commitment to service, with its early roots in watching her mom prepare meals for priests and bishops and later formed more deeply in

Catholic theology as a nursing student at St. John's College, a diocesan college once located downtown. After graduating, Chris served as a nurse at Mount Sinai Hospital before heading to the former Lorain Community Hospital emergency department, where she started their ambulance and flight program. Later working weekends as a flight nurse in Dallas, she began building her true passion: an emergency services consulting business. Throughout it all, her Catholic faith was a guiding light.

"Having a strong basis of Christianity makes a difference when working with people of diverse beliefs," says Chris. "For me, it began at St. Anthony of Padua elementary school learning the fundamental virtues."

As a parishioner and Finance Council member at St. Mary Parish in Chardon, Chris was an early and generous donor

when the Heart of a Shepherd campaign was launched – and a second-time donor with another significant gift at the end of 2021. “For me, it is about Catholic education. It’s a disciplined foundation for people to learn about God, family, community, and themselves,” she says. The seminary is the next step in education for a special group of men. And then I wanted to give back to the priests who touch so many of our lives. The Heart of a Shepherd campaign was a home run for me.”

### A VISIONARY DECISION: SEMINARY RENOVATION

Chris has an insider’s view of Borromeo Seminary as she serves on their board. Her first impression is not of the building but of the young men inside discerning the priesthood. “It’s amazing to watch them go through the maturation process and see their families celebrate that path with them, being so supportive,” says Chris.

She also saw an extremely outdated building where these young men live and learn. She applauds the diocese for seeking funds to transform the facility. “It’s visionary and so important for our diocese. This is where our priests come from,” Chris says. “To be able to support this campaign was an honor, not an obligation. It feels like a natural calling.”

Chris tells a story that brings to life the impact of this investment in renovating the seminary. “It was a dinner event at the pastoral center, and the first time they showed the changes. I went through with a mother whose son was thinking about coming to the seminary. She was blown away, saying it looked like a real college dorm. Those physical changes and modernizations made such a positive impact on a parent and will affect her support for her son. And obviously – the seminarians love it! It’s now a wonderful and well-deserved space for them.”

### SHARING FUNDS FOR PARISH NEEDS


Chris liked the “sharing formula” of the Heart of a Shepherd campaign, targeting a portion of funds to address capital needs at the parish level. St. Mary’s is seeking to replace an older two-story home used as a rectory and build a newer home on the parish campus, one that could house a pastor, vicar, and even a retired priest. “It goes back to the whole continuum of the campaign, caring for the men as they enter the seminary, serve as priests and then retire,” reflects Chris.

Concerned about asking for money during the pandemic, Chris marvels that St. Mary’s Parish “blew the lid off,” exceeding their goal by several hundred thousand dollars. She is grateful for the late Father Dan Redmond, who was pastor at the time and inspired the Parish with his passion for the campaign. “Despite the pandemic hardships, it was a success because the people love their parish priest,” she says. “They understand the challenges of the vocation and are tuned into showing their gratitude.”

### JOY IN BEING ABLE TO GIVE

As a successful (now part-time) businesswoman, Chris devotes her “giving back” to the Church with time, talent, and treasure. Beyond service to her parish and the seminary and her generous campaign donations, she has included the Church in her estate planning, making her a member of the Diocese of Cleveland’s Heritage Society. She joins other Catholics who are creating a legacy that carries on the traditions of our faith for generations to come.

“I wouldn’t say I feel generous – I’d say I feel great joy being able to provide whatever I can, whether it’s economic or prayers,” Chris says. “Everybody has an inherent gift for generosity.” ■

A photograph of two men shaking hands in front of a large, colorful stained glass window. The man on the left is wearing a blue suit, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. The man on the right is wearing a black clerical shirt with a white collar and black trousers. The window behind them features abstract designs in blue, yellow, and purple.

FATHER LARRY JURCAK,  
PASTOR AT ST. MARY PARISH,  
HUDSON, WITH PARISHIONER  
AND HEART OF A SHEPHERD  
CAMPAIGN CHAIR RICK  
SCHULTZ.

## ‘PAROCHIAL PANDEMIC PIVOT’ FUNDS NEEDS AT ST. MARY PARISH, HUDSON

Rick Schultz, Campaign Chair of the Heart of a Shepherd initiative, saw the need to support the leaders of our diocese when his son, Father Patrick Schultz, was attending Borromeo Seminary.

“The living quarters for our seminarians needed improvement,” Rick says. “I’ve heard stories that when one seminarian sneezed in his bedroom, the thin walls would allow the guy in the next room to reply with an audible ‘bless you.’”



While polite, this isn't the form of benediction those training for vocations should be expected to issue. This was just one of the inspirations that led Rick to help found and lead the Heart of a Shepherd campaign – an initiative established to address some long-overdue needs of our diocese. The goal was to strengthen and better meet the needs of Saint Mary and Borromeo Seminaries, its seminarians, and our newly-ordained and retired clergy.

Rick says, "It's a blessing for our diocese to have a local seminary for the formation of priests that will serve our community. This isn't the case across the nation. (Cleveland is one of about 30 dioceses in the nation to have a local seminary.) We're further blessed because our seminaries are putting out very high-caliber priests. Real homerun hitters. We wanted to make sure that those called to serve here are taken care of at every stage of life."

When asked to support the renovation of our seminaries, care for retired priests, and support for the newly ordained, our community members responded generously. The campaign got off to a great start, and then the pandemic hit.

The campaign was paused in March 2020 to reassess how to tackle a sudden need across the diocese. There was a steep drop in donations, and churches still needed to make ends meet.

Father Larry Jurcak, pastor of St. Mary's in Hudson, says, "Our buildings need some renovations. Our HVAC system is outdated. Our boiler is 53 years old. Given the construction of our buildings, we have very few windows that open on our property – many of them have broken seals and need to be replaced."

St. Mary's wasn't alone. Every parish had financial needs that collections couldn't cover.

The Heart of a Shepherd team regrouped and re-launched the campaign in the Fall of 2020 with an additional phase of the campaign that earmarked money for parishes. Call it a 'Parochial Pandemic Pivot.'

And once again, our diocesan community responded with generosity. The original campaign goal was \$30 million. More than 13,000 donors have pledged \$51.4 million – with nearly \$9 million already distributed to parishes for local projects and needs.

"With the funds from the Heart of a Shepherd, our Finance Council felt the time was right to begin our renovations," says Father Larry. "That wouldn't have been possible without so many people pledging support."

Rick is beyond thankful for the response, "I am so happy with the result, and the amount of money we raised through a pandemic is mind-blowing!" he says. "Even beyond the dollars raised, it's been phenomenal to see the excitement around this effort, from donors to the companies we've partnered with to make the improvements. Everyone was eager to participate."



RICK SCHULTZ ADDRESSED GROUPS OF PARISHIONERS MANY TIMES THROUGHOUT THE CAMPAIGN.

"We've always known our parish to be giving," says Father Larry, "but this generosity was a real affirmation of our culture of vocation that St. Mary's has created. The people of the parish value and care for the men that will and have served them spiritually."

Seven St. Mary's parishioners have been ordained as priests over seven years and this fall will see five more men from their congregation in the seminary.

"Our retired priests continue to provide critical priestly ministry in our diocese," Father Larry says. "I liken our elder clergy to grandfather figures and it's up to the whole family to take care of 'Grandpa.' So, I'm very pleased to see this campaign succeed."

"This whole campaign is about the future of our faith here in Cleveland," Rick adds. "It feels great to show these men serving our community that we will support them throughout their lifetime while also being able to help every parish through some historically tough times." ■

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The financial highlights presented here are condensed to reflect the activity related to the Heart of a Shepherd campaign as of May 31, 2022.

Audited financial statements of the Catholic Community Foundation are available online at [www.catholiccommunity.org/financials](http://www.catholiccommunity.org/financials).

## ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

The Catholic Community Foundation, which manages the Heart of a Shepherd campaign, embraces the values of **accountability and transparency** as we serve donors and carry out our mission to foster faith-based stewardship in the community for the spiritual, educational, and charitable needs of all. An outside audit is performed each year to make sure that contributions are properly recorded and distributed in accordance with their original intention. ■



BISHOP MALESIC AT THE 2022 CELEBRATION OF PRIEST JUBILEES, MARKING THE 60TH, 50TH, 40TH AND 25TH ANNIVERSARIES OF THE PRIESTS' ORDINATIONS.

TOTAL AMOUNT PLEDGED

**\$51.4 MILLION**

NUMBER OF DONORS

**13,023**

TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED  
as of May 31, 2022

**\$27,406,367**

AMOUNT RAISED FOR PARISHES

**\$19,256,713**

AMOUNT RAISED FOR DIOCESAN COMPONENTS

(Seminary Renovation, Priest Pension Fund, Educational Endowment)

**\$32,143,287**

AMOUNT COLLECTED FOR DIOCESAN COMPONENTS

(Seminary Renovation, Priest Pension Fund, Educational Endowment)  
as of May 31, 2022

**\$17,834,457**

AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED TO PARISHES as of May 31, 2022

**\$8,930,725**

# CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP

Thank you to the people whose tireless efforts made the Heart of a Shepherd a success.

**Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic**

Bishop, Diocese of Cleveland

**Most Reverend Nelson J. Perez**

Archbishop, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

**Reverend Donald P. Oleksiak**

Vicar General, Diocese of Cleveland

**Reverend Mark A. Latcovich, Ph.D.**

President-Rector,  
Borromeo & Saint Mary Seminary

**CAMPAIGN CABINET**

**Richard Schultz**, Chair

St. Mary Parish, Hudson

**Evelyn Allen**

St. Raphael Parish

**Seth Bostrom**

Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist

**Rev. James Caddy**

Retired

**Anthony Donatelli**

St. Mary Parish, Hudson

**Rev. Timothy Gareau**

St. Raphael Parish

**Rev. Scott Goodfellow**

St. Mary Parish, Chardon

**James Gulick**

Diocese of Cleveland

**Phil Guban**

Center for Pastoral Leadership

**Steve Hopp**

St. Joseph Parish, Avon Lake

**Timothy Jakubisin**

St. Angela Merici Parish

**Rev. Walter Jenne**

Retired

**Don Kimmel**

Our Lady of Peace Parish

**Rev. Frank Kosem**

Retired

**Thomas Kurtz**

St. Michael Parish

**Sister Mary McCormick**

Saint Mary Seminary

**Janice Murphy**

St. Mary of the Falls Parish

**Rev. Joseph Previte**

Holy Rosary Parish

**Andrew Rebholz**

St. John Neumann Parish

**Joseph Williams**

St. Helen Parish

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

**FOUNDATION | CAMPAIGN TEAM**

**Patrick Grace**

**Mary Lou Ozimek**

**Patrick McCarthy**

**Jean Ann Montagna**

**Fred Roberts**

**Anita Simko**

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO**

**OUR DEDICATED PASTORS**

**AND PRIESTS** for their

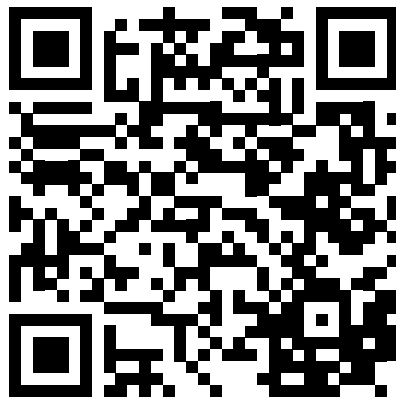
commitment to this campaign and for inspiring support in their parishes. The success of the Heart of a Shepherd campaign is due in large part to their generosity and leadership. Together, we are building for today and providing for tomorrow.



THANK YOU TO ARCHBISHOP PEREZ, WHO INITIATED THE HEART OF A SHEPHERD CAMPAIGN, AND BISHOP MALESIC WHO COMMITTED TO COMPLETING THIS IMPORTANT INITIATIVE.

# Thank You!

**Thank you to the generous people of the Diocese of Cleveland** for your support of our seminarians, retired priests, and newly ordained clergy, as well as the prayerful and financial support that you provide for your parishes and parish priests.



**PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW A RECOGNITION LIST OF OUR LEADERSHIP DONORS.**

**To make a pledge to the Heart of a Shepherd campaign or to find out more, please call the Campaign Office at 216-902-1300.**

